

REMARKS**Summary of Claims**

The Office Action mailed June 17, 2005 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1-22 were pending in the application. Claims 14-20 have been amended, claims 1-13, 21, and 22 have been canceled, and no claims have been newly added. Therefore, claims 14-20 are pending in the application and are submitted for reconsideration.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicant has amended the specification to address the objection in paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant has canceled claims 1-13, 21, and 22, making rejection of these claims moot. Applicant has amended the remaining claims to remove the “unit” language objected to by the examiner. Accordingly, applicant submits that the pending claims are supported by originally filed specification and meet the written description requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 10, 14, and 15 are also rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. While the rejection of claim 10 is mooted by the cancellation of that claim, applicant has amended claims 14 and 15 to clarify the recited terms. This amendment is supported by the originally filed specification at, for example, page 22, line 30 to page 23, line 9. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 14 and 15 are now in definite form and meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Prior Art Rejection

In the Office Action, claims 1-13, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,078,903 to Kealhofer in view of U.S. application publication no. 2003/0088601 to Pitsianis et al. Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims 1-13, 21, and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer to make this rejection moot.

Since no prior art rejections are outstanding against the pending independent claims 14, 15, and 16 and since all the other issues raised in the final Office Action have been addressed, applicant submits that the pending independent claims 14, 15, and 16 are now in condition for allowance.

The dependent claims 17-20 are allowable for at least the same reasons as the respective independent claims on which they ultimately depend. In addition, they recite additional patentable features when considered as a whole.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests entry of, and reconsideration based on, the instant amendment and reply because it is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. The present amendments simply removes language objected to by the examiner in the specification and the claims and provides clarification of claimed terms for pending claims which have not been rejected over the prior art. Accordingly, all of the pending claims should now be in condition for allowance since all the issues raised in final Office Action have been addressed and all the claims rejected over the prior art have been cancelled.

If there are any questions regarding the application, or if an examiner's amendment would facilitate the allowance of one or more of the claims, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 12, 2005

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